

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for initiating an online meeting over a data network between a host party with a first computer and an attendee party with a second computer, where a phone connection exists over a telephone network between a first phone of the host party and a second phone of the attendee party, the method comprising:

5 sending a start meeting message over the data network to a data center; receiving a meeting identification from the data center; storing the meeting identification in a first device, which is coupled to both the first phone and the first computer; and transmitting the meeting identification from the first device over the telephone network to a second device, which is coupled to both the second phone 10 and the second computer.

- 15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the meeting identification into the second device; and using the second device to send a join meeting message over the data network 20 to the data center.

- 25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone network comprises a public switched telephone network.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the data network comprises an Internet.

- 25 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

encoding the meeting identification by the first device prior to transmitting the meeting identification over the telephone network to the second device.